

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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SCA-01 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06 EPA-04 CEQ-02 SAJ-01 CPR-02

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R 271536Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SPOKANE EXPO - SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 3511 (B) MOSCOW 4273 (C) STATE A-660,
JAN. 23, 1974 (D) STATE 032387 (E) STATE 047755

1. EMBASSY MAY POINT OUT TO SOVIETS THAT EXPO-74
PARTICIPANTS WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AND A-2 VISAS WILL BE
ALLOWED DUTY-FREE ENTRY PRIVILEGE FOR ITEMS FOR PERSONAL
CONSUMPTION OR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES AND WILL NOT BE
SUBJECT TO CUSTOMS INSPECTION OF ACCOMPANIED PERSONAL
BAGGAGE. THESE A-2 VISA HOLDERS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT RPT NOT
HAVE IMMUNITY FROM US CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JURISDICTION, WHICH
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IS ENJOYED ONLY BY INDIVIDUALS ACCREDITED TO USG AS EMBASSY

OR CONSULAR OFFICERS.

2. EMBASSY MAY ALSO NOTE THAT MAJOR CONSIDERATION FOR EXPO IS THAT CONTRACTS WITH EXHIBITORS BE LEGALLY ENFORCEABLE IN US COURTS. JUDGING FROM SOVIET LETTER TO EXPO PRESIDENT, SOVIET EXHIBIT MANAGERS AWARE OF NECESSITY FOR CONTRACT ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCEPT FACT THAT THEY WILL NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

3. IN FEBRUARY 6 LETTER TO KING COLE, PRESIDENT OF SPOKANE EXPO, SOVIET EXHIBIT COMMISSIONER GENERAL N.D. FILIPPOV REQUESTED DIPLOMATIC VISAS FOR HIMSELF AND DEPUTIES B.V. KOKOREV AND E.I. PERVENTSEV. FILIPPOV CITED PRACTICE OF PREVIOUS WORLD EXPOSITIONS AND NOTED THAT HIS DEPUTIES WILL ASSUME ALL OBLIGATIONS CONNECTED WITH SOVIET EXHIBIT IN HIS ABSENCE. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM EXPO MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED A-2 VISAS FOR KOKOREV AND PERVENTSEV AND IS PREPARED TO ISSUE A-2 TO FILIPPOV.

4. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ISSUANCE OF THESE VISAS EFFECTIVELY ANSWERS MFA CONCERNS REPORTED IN REF A. IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED SOVIET EXPO STAFF THAT BELOV'S VISA COULD BE CHANGED TO A-2 UPON REQUEST.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF EMBASSY OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS TO CULTURAL EXHIBITS, DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THIS PRACTICE PROPER, GIVEN EXHIBITS GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CHARACTER. EXPO-74 IS A COMMERCIAL VENTURE ORGANIZED BY A NON-USG ENTITY. THEREFORE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONSIDER INAPPROPRIATE THE ASSIGNMENT OF DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR OFFICER TO SOVIET EXPO EXHIBIT STAFF.

6. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON THE ABOVE AS NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN USG POSITION TO MFA.

7. EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ODESSA TELEX FACILITY AT OREC EXHIBIT EMPHASIZING THAT USG EXPECTS RECIPROCAL TREATMENT ON COMMUNICATIONS AS OUTLINED PARA 1, REF D. RUSH
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